

JANUARY 13, 2003

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Environmental Management Project
1425 Plain City-Georgesville Rd.
West Jefferson, OH 43162

Dear Mr. Baillieul:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (January 4-10, 2003)

I. Operations:

Building JN-1:

Comments for Work Instruction (WI)-1155, "Plug and Block Removal from the High Energy Cell (HEC)", were resolved. WI-1155 will be finalized next week as soon as the final engineering write-up is incorporated into the WI.

WI-1099, covering the removal of the HEC cranes, under development. Myers Movers is preparing a quote for performing this work.

Piping on the 5,000-gallon tank in the Pump Room is being removed (WI-1089) (see photo attached).

In the JN-1B High Bay, the 50-ton crane was returned to service late Wednesday. The work pending crane repairs resumed under WI-1128, and -1101, packaging of the Saxton transuranic (TRU) waste in the HEC.

Under WI-1101, the Saxton rod was vented successfully and a detailed visual inspection was again performed. Since the last visual inspection, the level of detail obtainable was greatly improved and additional detail of the cladding condition was recorded. The 503-15-02 rod had definite signs of cladding failure.

Work on WI-1100, covering manipulator and plug removal, continued in the HEC operating area. Plugs were removed from window 16; this included cleaning and sealing plug ports.

WI-1142, covering HEC overhead decon, was distributed for review and comment, and will be approved next week for work to begin inside the HEC. In conjunction with this WI, the man-lift cover was assembled; safety and radiation protection staff reviewed operations of the completed assembly (see photo attached).

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

One of three groundwater monitoring holes has been bored to bedrock level (WI-1136) (see photo attached).

Work continued on the planned JN-13 Access Control Point/Locker Room trailer to be located on top of the existing footers outside JN-3. Specifications were finalized and added to the final drawing of this unit in preparation for distribution to prospective vendors next week.

A letter was submitted to DOE-OH containing proposed language to be added to the Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning Project (BCLDP) contract that would allow Battelle to direct charge the leasing of temporary trailers (such as the planned Access Control Point/Locker Room unit and the Radioanalytical Laboratory [RAL] unit) to the project as defined in current baseline documents.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:

The BCLDP will participate in a conference call next week with the Midwestern Governors Council to discuss the possibility of shipping two casks of TRU waste in early February. Currently, drums sufficient for two shipments of TRU waste are pre-staged in a Dufrane unit in the JN-1 High-Bay.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Piping from the Old Chemistry Lab drains is being processed and packaged as waste (WI-1110).

Three (3) 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the Charpy Cell. Non-compatible low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 was packaged into B-25 boxes, for a total volume of 178 ft³ (70 ft³ for Envirocare of Utah and 108 ft³ for Hanford disposal).

Eleven (11) B-25 boxes of LLW debris were shipped to Envirocare for disposal. Total volume of the shipment was 1,047 ft³ (40,443 lb).

Twenty-eight (28) new B-25 boxes were received from Bull Run Metal Fabricators for packaging LLW for Envirocare disposal.

Ten (10) gallons (1.3 ft³) of motor oil generated from forklift maintenance were free-released to Battelle Columbus Operations Waste Management for disposal.

Technology Deployment:

The WI-984 field change to direct the low-pressure injection functional testing was completed. Due to the inaccuracy of the low-pressure flow meter, no water injection testing could be done. Staff members were notified to correct this equipment. A WIDE planning meeting was held to direct the staff for needed engineering modifications and procedures to start extraction functional testing.

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Environmental Management Project
January 13, 2003
Page 3 of 3

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

Safety performance is 766 days and 500,413 exposure hours without a lost-time injury accident.

III. Facilities and Equipment:

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance of the WJ North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds were completed.

Approximately 375 gallons of water were moved into the evaporator. The evaporator is turned on and is at 126°F.

The HEPA filters in the RAL of JN-2 were changed and DOP tested.

The new rectifiers, new wiring, and electronic adjustments corrected the 10/50-ton JN-1B High Bay crane overload problem. Crane America tested the crane and certified it for use.

Planning continued in the following areas:

- WI-1119, covering the reroofing of JN-6, is in the review cycle; but the start of work depends on the weather.
- The vendor should soon send the projected receiving date for a new JN-1 transformer, which will supply electricity to breathing air and eventually to the new water processing room.
- A Request for Proposal was sent to contractors for the JN-1 Pump Room roof replacement.

IV. Future Work Activities:

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weaver, P.E., Manager
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk